

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: SB 197

Title: Provide foster parents counseling

Primary

Sponsor: Chris Christiaens

Status: As introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	Dave Lewis, Budget Director	Date
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Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2000 Difference</u>	<u>FY2001 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
General Fund	\$23,800	\$23,800
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	(\$23,800)	(\$23,800)

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	X	Significant Local Gov. Impact	X		Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) generally has several medically fragile and/or severely disabled children in care.
2. On an annual basis, it is estimated that five children die while in the care of foster parents.
3. The equivalent state employee benefit for calculating the amount of reimbursement for the mental health outpatient counseling is based on the benefits provided by the State of Montana Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) and the Montana employee insurance plan.
4. The EAP provides for four free, short-term counseling outpatient visits per year through Vocational Resources, Incorporated (VRI). If VRI refers an employee to a counselor for additional sessions, 75% of the cost of 40 sessions is covered by the State of Montana employee insurance plan.
5. Each session is estimated to cost \$70.
6. It is estimated that two people (foster care parents or persons in a youth care facility providing substitute care) will require mental health counseling services for each death.

7. The total cost is estimated to be \$23,100 each year ((5 deaths x 40 visits x 2 parents/employees x \$70/visit x 75%) + (5 deaths x 4 visits x 2 parents/employees x \$70/visit x 100%)).
8. The maximum county and federal Title IV-B child welfare funds available have been included in the Governor's budget, and are not available to pay for these costs.
9. This service is not an allowable cost under the federal Title IV-E substitute care program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2000 Difference</u>	<u>FY2001 Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$23,800	\$23,800
<u>Funding:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$23,800	\$23,800
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>		
General Fund (01)	(\$23,800)	(\$23,800)

TECHNICAL NOTES:

1. New Section, Section 2 states that "a person who operates a youth care facility and provides substitute care to a foster child who dies while residing in the facility must be offered reimbursement for mental health outpatient counseling services at the expense of the department." It is unclear if counseling services are to be offered to employees of youth care facilities. A board of directors generally operates these facilities. The term youth care facility as defined in 41-3-1102 (9) includes youth foster homes, youth group homes, child-care-agencies, youth assessment centers.